

Appl. No. 09/881,041

Amdt. dated January 30, 2006

Reply to Office Action dated August 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

a plurality of remote monitoring stations, each being adapted to receive patient health-related data pertaining to a respective patient; and

a computer network comprising a database containing accumulated health-related data pertaining to health-related conditions and treatment and at least one data access device adapted to provide a health care provider access to said computer network and said database, said computer network being adapted to receive said patient health-related data from said remote monitoring stations, to establish treatments programs for said patients based on their respective patient health-related data and said accumulated health-related data, and to revise said accumulated health-related data based on said patient health-related data;

said remote monitoring stations being configured with electronic self-management tools for receiving from a respective patient said patient health-related data relating to integration of a selected one of said treatment programs into the patient's lifestyle comprising at least one of questions concerning health or treatment and responses to questions concerning health or treatment that are generated using said electronic self-management tools;

said computer network being configured with electronic assessment tools to allow a health care provider to assess said patient health-related data to determine progress of the patient on the selected treatment program and whether information relating to the selected treatment program needs to be conveyed to the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

each of said remote monitoring stations ~~includes~~comprises at least one measuring device, adapted to measure a physiological condition of said respective patient, and to provide

data representative of said physiological condition for inclusion among said patient health-related data; and

said electronic assessment tools allow a health care provider to monitor said patient health-related data relating to integration of a selected one of said treatment programs into the patient's lifestyle and determine readiness of the patient for self-management under the selected treatment program.

3. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said remote monitoring stations are adapted to provide said patient health-related data to said computer network over the Internet.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~said computer network further includes at least one data access device, adapted to provide a health care provider access to said computer network and said database~~ said electronic assessment tools are selected from the group consisting of Standard Form-36 (SF-36), Duke Activity Index, guidelines of the Diabetes Quality Improvement Project (DQIP), tools for specific disease state monitoring, depression scales, nutrition assessment tools, quality of life assessment tools.

5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said computer network is adapted to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.

6. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said computer network is adapted to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment programs, and is adapted to receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

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7. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

each said remote monitoring station receives from its respective said patient said health related data including data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said patient.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

obtaining patient health-related data pertaining to patients at a plurality of remote monitoring stations, each being adapted to receive respective said patient health-related data from a respective said patient;

storing accumulated health-related data pertaining to health-related conditions and treatment in a database of a computer network;

receiving at said computer network said patient health-related data from said remote monitoring stations;

controlling said computer network to establish ~~treatment~~treatment programs for said patients based on their respective patient health-related data and said accumulated health-related data; and

controlling said computer network to revise said accumulated health-related data based on said patient health-related data;

generating from said accumulated health-related data clinical data comprising outcomes of said treatment programs;

receiving economic data relating to protocols used in said treatment programs;

aggregating said patient health-related data, said clinical data and said economic data with information comprising population outcomes and generic standards of care; and

determining from said aggregated data recommendations for improving the treatment programs.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

each of said remote monitoring stations includes at least one measuring device; and

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said obtaining includes controlling said at least one measuring device at each said remote monitoring station to measure a physiological condition of its respective patient to provide data representative of said physiological condition for inclusion among said patient health-related data.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

said receiving includes transmitting said patient health-related data from said monitoring stations over the Internet to said computer network.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

providing a health care provider access to said computer network and said database via at least one data access device.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

controlling said computer network to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said receiving step comprises further comprising:

controlling said computer network to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment programs, and [is adapted] to receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

said obtaining step includes controlling each said remote monitoring station to receive from its respective said patient said health related data including data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said patient.

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15. (Currently Amended) A method for managing health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

assigning healthcare managers to said patients, such that each said healthcare manager is assigned to a respective group of said patients;

collecting said healthcare data by using each said healthcare manager to collect respective health-related data for each respective patient in their said group of patients;

determining whether each respective patient is suitable for participation in a treatment program;

controlling a computer network to receive said health-related data from each of said healthcare managers, and to store said health-related data pertaining to each said patient in a database, said database further including accumulated data pertaining to health-related conditions and treatments;

coordinating each said healthcare manager with at least one member of a primary care team to establish a treatment ~~plan~~program for each respective patient in their said group of patients based on said health-related data pertaining to that respective patient and said accumulated data; and

updating said accumulated data in said database based on said health-related data provided by said healthcare managers;

wherein the determining step comprises the steps of

obtaining agreement from a respective patient to participate in a treatment program; and

receiving approval from a payer who will pay for the treatment program;

wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of

receiving health-related data for a respective patient comprising assessment of the patient's medical, psychosocial and environmental conditions;

receiving a plan of care initiated by the corresponding one of the healthcare managers assigned to the patient as a result of an interview with the patient and the assessment, the plan of care being used in the establishment of the treatment program for the patient.

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16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said collecting includes using a respective remote monitoring station to obtain respective said health-related data from each respective said patient.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said controlling controls said computer network to receive said health-related data from at least some of said health-care managers via the Internet.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

controlling said computer network to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment programs, and is adapted to receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

controlling said computer network to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said respective health-related data for each said respective patient includes data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said respective patient.